

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, APRIL 28, 1900.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, CHARLES EMORY SMITH, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

State. Congressmen at Large—GALUSHA A. GROW, ROBERT H. FORDELLER. Auditor General—E. B. HARDENBERGH. Legislative. First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS. Second District—JOHN SCHIFFER, JR. Third District—EDWARD JAMES, JR. Fourth District—P. A. PHILBIN.

If Mark Hanna never promised to support Quay and never authorized the repeated interviews in which he affirmed his intention to vote to seat, he has been a long time in setting his position right before the country.

The Prison Labor Problem.

AN EXHAUSTIVE investigation of the prison labor problem has been made by the industrial commission and the results are set forth in a recently-issued preliminary report. We pass by the mass of statistical information intended to show how many states now provide work for their convicts, in what manner and with what economic consequences, and proceed to summarize the conclusions of the commission.

That provision should be made in the laws of each state for the employment of all prisoners in productive labor is affirmed, as well as that the state should have absolute control of the care, punishment, reformation and employment of the prisoners. Likewise the disposition of the products of their industry. The fact is recognized that no labor can be done within a prison which will not in some way compete with the free labor outside; therefore the letting of prison labor by contract to individuals or corporations for the purpose of cheaply producing goods to be sold in the open market in destructive competition with goods made by free labor is condemned, but recognition is given to the fact that there are many articles used in state institutions which can be made by prison labor, to the advantage of both prisoners and state; and it is in this direction that the commission believes a practical solution of the problem can be found.

To embody its conclusions in concrete form the commission has drafted a bill of which the main features are: Providing for an appointive board of four prison commissioners, to visit, inspect, and supervise all prisons and to aid in securing a just, humane and economic administration of them; clothing this commission with ample power to conduct investigations and root out abuses; requiring that all prisoners capable of work shall be made to labor under the rules of the prison commissioners in the production of state and county supplies, repair of roads and other public works; and reserving the right to any surplus products of their labor so as not to effect a reduction in the wages of competitive free labor yet to insure to the state some return from its investment in feeding, clothing and educating its criminal wards. So far as possible an administration of prisons based on civil service principles—that is to say, the employment of prison officials on the ground of supposed fitness rather than because of political "pull," and their retention during efficiency and good behavior—is demanded.

While these conclusions have in large measure been anticipated by those who have given thought to the subject, their present value, coming with official weight, is considerable. The day has gone by when public opinion was willing to entrust the custody of its convicts wholly to ignorant and brutal jailers, under conditions which made the jail a radiating center of vice and crime. Modern intelligence is yearly placing increased emphasis upon the reformatory side of penal administration, one of the most helpful means to which end is the rational employment of convicts in productive labor.

Governor Candler of Georgia seems to be something of a fanatic himself. Today's offering in the Lyceum Theater, "The Parish Priest," has exceptional interest for the people of North-eastern Pennsylvania because it is the product of a local playwright, Mr. Daniel L. Hart of Wilkes-Barre, who in this play has apparently realized the success as a dramatist for which his earlier work gave promise. The winning of a victory by merit and hard work is an interesting event in any vocation. But Mr. Hart's new play has, we are told, an additional element of curiosity in that it succeeds in the very difficult task of picturing a clergyman in an absolutely natural pose, without reverence or theological bias, but simply as a good-natured, kind-hearted man loyally devoted to the interests of his flock. "The Parish Priest" is a type of the kind of play which sends people away from the theater with a feeling of increased respect for human nature and on this account we deem it worthy of especial commendation.

The announcement that the automobile will soon succeed the canal mule as a means of propulsion on the tow-path will doubtless be jarring to the fine feelings of many who have adopt-

ed the horseless carriage as a fashionable fad. It really would seem more appropriate if the plain class of bicyclists could be pressed into the service ahead of the canal boats.

The tender solicitude of the Democratic party for the brown-face vanguard in our new possessions is in painful contrast with its treatment of the Southern blacks.

Will Cotton Be Enthroned Again?

BEFORE THE New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association in session at Boston, Dr. William P. Wilson, of the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia, recently delivered an address in explanation of the opportunities opening for growth in American exports of manufactures of cotton which was instructive and encouraging.

He first showed that while the United States is the greatest producer of raw cotton in the world, its export of manufactured cotton goods is much smaller than that of little Switzerland, but little larger than that of Japan, and in excess of that of only four European countries, Italy, Belgium, Austria and Russia. This table shows the present position of the export trade in cotton manufactures:

Table with 3 columns: Country, 1897, 1898, 1899. Rows include United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Russia, Japan.

The total number of spindles at work in the world's cotton mills is estimated at 106,000,000, of which Great Britain had nearly half, continental Europe nearly one-third and the United States only a trifle more than one-fifth. The exact figures for the season of 1898-99 were: Great Britain, 45,400,000 spindles, continental Europe, 32,500,000; United States, 18,100,000; India, 4,728,000 and Japan, 1,358,125. For the last ten years the per centages of increase in the number of spindles are as follows: Great Britain, 4-13; continental Europe, 30-35; United States, 28-34; India, 71; Japan, 680. These figures are significant, for while they indicate possibilities of considerable future competition from Japan and India they also point to France and Germany, and Germany more especially, as our principal prospective competitors.

It is to be remembered with respect to the percentage of growth in the number of American spindles during the past decade that at least half of the ten years were years of a general depression which weighed most heavily upon our textile industry; that our manufacturers of cotton goods were undergoing an unsettling migration from New England to the South, and that they had not yet turned their attention seriously to the development of an export business. In the last year our exports of cotton fabrics to China alone have doubled, and the percentage of growth in our export trade in cotton fabrics with that great undeveloped empire exceeded that of Great Britain, continental Europe and also Japan. The completion of a transisthmian waterway giving to our southern states the benefit of cheap and speedy transportation of their cotton manufactures to Oriental markets, combined with the development of an American ocean marine and a broad development of our political opportunities in the Philippines should make the next ten years a period of enormous advances in the cotton export trade as well as a period of extraordinary development in the new South.

According to latest advices from Mr. Bryan, he has not dropped silver, trusts or imperialism. They are all in his repertoire to be introduced as the taste of the audience deems.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

A child born on this day will notice that the fruits of accident are often more profitable than those of experience.

The next few days will decide which is of the most interest to the public, the African war or games at Atlantic park.

Man's intention to make a three-hair hat has no weight on the "bleachers" when he strikes out.

An artist's life has fascinations, but the man who is able to draw a large bank check and paint the town is not wholly without sources from which to derive pleasure.

Ajacchus' Advice.

It is better to always write poetry to order. You will not then be in danger of overwork.

QUAY ON THE RESULT.

From an interview in the New York Herald. "This is no time for 'revenge,' as some call it. We have a national campaign before us, and there is too much at stake to pursue a policy of that kind. Of course, if anybody gets in our way we shall not step aside to avoid trying conclusions. The 'revenge' is on the other side.

I anticipate no effect upon the administration, Pennsylvania has been true to Republican principles by overwhelming majorities on national candidates for forty years, and will continue on that line. There is no reason why the action of the senate should be resented by Republican voters upon the nominees of their party.

The administration has been excellent; it has fulfilled all pledges of the platform of 1896. In fact, it has done more. It carried to a successful issue a war with one of the military powers of Europe; has extended the jurisdiction of the government, not only to islands in the Pacific, but beyond, with an empire almost within sight of the shores of Asia, besides the West Indies and the elimination entirely of a troublesome neighbor.

WHO WAS THE HEROINE?

One woman bravely went far To lands made desolate by war; She cared for wounded, sick and dead, The naked clothed, the hungry fed.

Another spent the whole of life Fulfilling duties of a wife And mother—she was gentle, bright, Chaste spot of love and sweet delight.

The first one died—whole columns told Her virtues and her noble gold. The other, one day, gently slept— Her children and her husband wept.—Kathleen Kavanaugh, in Indianapolis Press.

are paid \$12.14; on Italian, \$9.63; on German, \$11.90 to \$16.66, and on British, \$23.35. Firemen on Austrian steamers receive \$15.82; on Italian, \$17.25; on German, \$12.28 to \$19.04, and on British, \$26.

"At Marseilles, on French ships first mates are paid between \$38.60 and \$57.90; on British, \$28.93 to \$58.53; on Norwegian and Swedish, \$18.91, and on German, \$35.70. On French ships second mates were paid between \$28.95 and \$38.60; on British ships, \$29.19 to \$38.93, and on German, \$52.38. First engineers on French ships were paid from \$57.90 to \$77.20; on British from \$63.28 to \$68.13, and on German, \$89.25.

Second engineers on French ships received from \$28.95 to \$48.25; on British, \$48.66, and on German, \$52.38. Firemen on French ships were paid from \$18.33 to \$23.16; on British, from \$17.02 to \$18.24; on Norwegian, \$13.89, and on German, \$16.66. Seamen on French ships were paid \$12.54 to \$17.02; on British, \$15.80 to \$17.92; on Norwegian, \$11.96, and on German, \$14.23 to \$16.66.

"At Liverpool, Vice Consul W. J. Salls reports that first mates on British sailing ships were paid \$24.10; on Norwegian, \$21.89 to \$24.23; on French, \$28.95 to \$34.74, and on German, \$24.23 to \$38.93. On British ships seamen received \$13.89; on Swedish and Norwegian, \$14.59 to \$17.02; on French, \$11.57, and on German, \$12.16. The average pay to mates on British steamers was \$55.81; on Swedish and Norwegian, \$19.46 to \$34.06; on French, \$48.25. First engineers on British steamers receive an average of \$87.11; on Swedish and Norwegian, \$58.29 to \$97.33; on French, \$75.20; on German, \$48.66 to \$72.99, and on Spanish, \$77.88. Second engineers receive an average on British ships of \$62.10; on Swedish and Norwegian, \$38.93 to \$58.20; on French, \$48.25; on German, \$38.48 to \$18.66, and on Spanish, \$58.29. Firemen on British ships averaged \$20.31; on Swedish and Norwegian, \$14.59 to \$15.80; on German, \$12.16 to \$14.59, and on Spanish, \$17.51.

It is apparent that these marked differences in wages must be equalized if our ships are to get a grasp on the carrying trade. The subsidy bill now pending in congress will enable our shippers to pay the American rate of wages and yet compete with ships flying other flags.

Lord Roberts does not seem to be having much success as a setter of traps. With his great preponderance of force it is a wonder that he does not emulate the tactics of Grant's advance upon Richmond and simply crush the enemy by superior numbers.

Senator Mason desires the United States to turn Cuba over to the Cubans on July 4. The fact that the proposal comes from Senator Mason alone would make the scheme seem hazardous.

Since the extinguishment of the Pittsburg politicians at Harrisburg, the Clarke divorce case has been moderately successful in keeping the Smoky City located on the map.

The queen's visit to Ireland is now a thing of the past, and no incident marked the event that will justify uneasy observers on this side of the water in remarking "I told you so."

A lecturer upon prison reform has just been arrested on a charge of embezzlement. He is liable to be better equipped than ever to talk on the subject before his class.

Judging from the rapid promotion of enterprises in this part of the state, we will soon be able to secure but little in the food line that has not been canned or condensed.

In the act of disappearing at the proper moment the Boer warrior displays agility second only to that of the Filipino.

IMPORTS INTO CANADA.

The following table, taken from "Trade and Commerce, 1899" an official publication of the Canadian government, shows the total imports into Canada, and the amount from the United Kingdom, during the years 1880 to 1899, respectively, in each year from 1880 to 1899, and the percentage which the imports from those countries formed of the total importations of the year. It will be observed that imports from the United Kingdom, which in 1880 formed 48.4 per cent, were in 1899 but 21.5 per cent of the total, while those from the United States, which in 1880 formed 40.2 per cent, were in 1899, 50.2 per cent of the total.

Table with 5 columns: Year, Total Imports, U.S. Cent., U.K. Cent., Per Cent. Rows for years 1880 through 1899.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

According to the report of the Menzies society there are 70,000 prehistoric beagles in London.

Egypt and the Sudan have now 2,914 miles of telegraph line. The line from Behera to Kassala and Suakin is under way of construction.

In Connecticut the percentage of criminals paid from 1880 to 1899 has fallen steadily from 2.48 in 1880 to 2.38 in the present year.

One of the three old ash trees which mark the site of Lincolnwood, on the upper Tucks, Scotland, immortalized in Burns' "The Wastie," has been destroyed by a storm.

Algeria, since the year 1892, has increased its railway system by no less than 1,561 miles. New lines are under construction. Works on the Great Sahara line have also been started.

States made of gold are popular in St. Petersburg. One lady had the blades of her slates encased with diamonds. Slates set with pearls and precious stones have also been in fashion.

It is computed the death rate of the world is 67 and the birth rate 74 a minute, and this seeming slight percentage of gain is sufficient to give a net increase in population each year of 1,390,000 souls.

Milan possesses one of the most curious clocks in the world. It is a masterpiece of clockwork and is the handiwork of a native of Milan, who spent three years in constructing it. It is of fair size and goes well.

In Milwaukee recently nineteen applicants for the position of keeper of a city matutinary were required to plunge into the tank in their street clothing and swim. It was part of a civil-service examination.

RICHARD OLNEY.



Richard Olney, the ex-cabinet member, is now considering the acceptance of the head of the Democrat presidential ticket, to be put up by the gold Democrats, opposed to Bryan and free silver.

Commerce Between Canada and Britain.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of a further increase in the Canadian preferential tariff in favor of the United Kingdom as against the United States and other parts of the world gives especially interest to some official figures of the imports of Canada from the United Kingdom and the United States respectively, during a term of years, which have just been issued by the Canadian government and received by the treasury bureau of statistics. The Canadian tariff, it will be remembered, was in 1897 so adjusted that it reduced the duty on imports from the United Kingdom to 25 per cent, and on imports from the United States to 35 per cent, and it is announced that on July 1, 1899, the reduction will be increased to 25 per cent, and on imports from the United States to 35 per cent, and on imports from other parts of the world to 45 per cent.

In this time the preferential rates made in favor of imports from the United Kingdom have steadily increased. In 1880 the duty on imports from that country of the United Kingdom in the fiscal year 1880, the last year under the rate which was uniform for all parts of the world, was 31.1 per cent, of the total imports, while those from the United States formed 40.2 per cent of the total importations. In 1899, under the full effect of the 25 per cent reduction in favor of the United Kingdom, imports from that country formed only 21.5 per cent of the total imports of Canada, while those from the United States formed 50.2 per cent, the proportion of the total which was taken from the United Kingdom having thus materially fallen under the preferential tariff, while the proportion taken from the United States had materially increased.

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